

Message Text

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53

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 EB-03 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /052 W

----- 051579

R 061340Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5496

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2783

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BPRO, EIND, CZ

SUBJ: GENERAL MOTORS INTEREST IN CZECHOSLOVAK AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

REF: STATE 230761

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE GM-CZECHOSLOVAK COOPERATION WITH JAROLIM OF MOTOKOV AND, SEPARATELY, WITH FERUS OF MINISTRY OF METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING WHO HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE TO SAY ON SUBJECT OTHER THAN TO NOTE DEPUTY MINISTER CIHAK'S INTEREST.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER DECEMBER 5, JAROLIM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD BEEN REMISS IN NOT REPLYING TO STRUPP OF GM. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE MOTOKOV HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REACTION TO GM PROPOSALS FROM TATRA, WHICH WOULD BE CZECHOSLOVAK MANUFACTURING PARTNER IN ANY TRUCK CO-PRODUCTION DEAL. JAROLIM THOUGHT BEST DEAL WOULD AMOUNT TO BUILDING TRUCK AT TATRA CHASSIS WITH GM ENGINE (PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF US POLLUTION STANDARDS), ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COMBINATION, E.G., TRUCK WITH TATRA AIR-COOLED ENGINE.

3. JAROLIM SAID HE WOULD PRESS TATRA, AND HOPED THAT RESULT WOULD BE TO ENABLE HIM TO MAKE EARLY AND FORTHCOMING REPLY TO GM. JAROLIM ADDED THAT CZECHS REMAINED INTERESTED IN OPEL KAPITAN, TO SUPPLEMENT NEW TATRA 613 SEDAN WHICH WOULD HAVE ONLY LIMITED

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PRODUCTION. MOTOKOV HAD RECEIVED SOME ORDINARY BROCHURES

ON KAPITAN FROM GM AUSTRIA, BUT NO DETAILED INFORMATION ON PRICE QUOTATIONS.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR HAD VISITED TATRA PLANT AT KOPRIVNICE NOVEMBER 27 (PRAGUE A-145, DECEMBER 7) AND HAD EMPHASIZED, WITHOUT PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO GM, POSSIBILITY OF US COMMERCIAL LINKS WITH TATRA; AMBASSADOR HAD SUGGESTED THAT TATRA DIRECTOR GENERAL KOPEC MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER VISIT TO U.S. IN THIS REGARD. JAROLIM THOUGHT THAT AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO TATRA SHOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN HELPING ELICIT POSITIVE REPLY TO GM PROPOSAL S.

(FERUS HAD TOLD US SEPARATELY THAT HE THINKS VISIT TO U.S. BY KOPEC QUITE POSSIBLE.)

5. ABOVE SENT LIMDIS ONLY BECAUSE OF CAPTION REFTEL.
SHERER

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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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